

SEP 08 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claims are 1, 2, 4, 5 and 8-13. Claim 3, which the Examiner indicated contained allowable subject matter, has been rewritten in independent form by amending claim 1 to incorporate the subject matter of claim 3. Accordingly, claim 3 has been canceled. Claims 6 and 7, which the Examiner also indicated contain allowable subject matter, have been rewritten in independent form as new claims 12 and 13 respectively. Accordingly, claims 6 and 7 have been canceled. Claim 10, which the Examiner has allowed, has been amended to make that method claim independent from claim 1. These claims and claims 2, 4, 5, 8, 9 and 12 have also been amended to improve their form or delete reference numerals. Reconsideration is expressly requested.

Claim 1, 2, 4, 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Zheleznyakov et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,485,846* for the reasons set forth on pages 2-3 of the Office Action. The Examiner has also indicated, however, that claims 10 and 11 are allowed, and that claims 3, 6 and 7 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten in independent

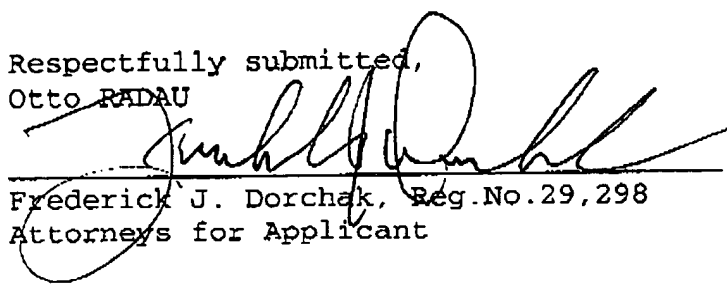
form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response, without conceding the propriety of the rejections and in order to expedite prosecution of this case, Applicant has amended claim 1 to incorporate the subject matter of claim 3, has rewritten claims 6 and 7 as new independent claims 12 and 13, respectively, has amended claim 10 to make that method claim independent from claim 1 as amended, and has canceled claims 3, 6 and 7. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 as amended, claims 2, 4, 5, 8 and 9 which depend thereon, claim 10, claim 11 which depends on claim 10, and new claims 12-13 are now in condition for allowance.

In summary, claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 8-11 have been amended, claims 3, 6, and 7 have been canceled, and new claims 12-13 have been added. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the claims be allowed and that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,
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